

## ***Cuba-U.S. Ties Stalled By Castro's Aims Abroad***

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cuba's dabbling in the affairs of foreign countries continues to be a major obstacle to the United States' establishing diplomatic relations with the Caribbean island nation, according to a presidential report.

The latest "problem area" cited by the White House is Nicaragua, where strongman Anastasio Somoza is battling Sandinista guerillas. A secret CIA report made available to The Associated Press last year said intelligence officials claim to have evidence that the regime of Cuban President Fidel Castro has furnished weapons to the rebels.

A report President Carter sent to Congress yesterday said, "Nicaragua is another possible area of contention between our two governments. We have expressed our concern directly to the Cubans and will be closely watching for any evidence of intervention on their part."

The report said other problems in bringing the two nations closer together include the presence of Cuban combat troops in Africa, Castro's refusal to pay for seized U.S. property and his "excessively abrasive manner" in pushing for Puerto Rican independence.

The presidential document, which is an annual report required by law, did say there were improvements in relations since Carter took office in 1977.